



503.40284X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Akira YOSHIKAWA et al.
Serial No.: 09/886,976
Filed: June 25, 2001
For: INVESTIGATION DEVICE AND INVESTIGATION METHOD
Group: 2623
Examiner: S. Ahmed

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 14, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 14, 2004, the period for reply thereto being extended three months by the attached Petition for Extension of Time to expire January 14, 2005, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 4.

Amendments to the Drawings describing changes to drawings shown in the Appendix are on page 8.

Remarks are included following the amendments.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following the Remarks.